Register Sign In

The Interview

Roelf Meyer, South African ambassador: Trump has been misled

23:00

Save

Follow

Share

25 September 2026 23 minutes Available for over a year

“The notion of a mass attack on the Afrikaner was misrepresented by those that might have conveyed the message. I mean, I’m an Afrikaner from South Africa myself. And I can say that I’ve never experienced something of that kind. We found it strange. So the source is misrepresented, unfortunately, something that just doesn’t exist.”

Ione Wells speaks to Roelf Meyer, South Africa’s new ambassador to the United States.

In the 1990s, Meyer was one of the leading negotiators in the talks that helped bring apartheid to an end.

Now he takes up his new post amid a serious rupture in relations with the U.S. President Trump has cut aid, expelled the previous South African ambassador and offered refugee status to white Afrikaners he says are fleeing persecution, claiming the community faces “genocide”.

The South African government rejects that allegation. Meyer, himself an Afrikaner, explains why he believes Trump has been given the wrong picture and how his experience negotiating the end of apartheid could help repair relations with Washington.

The Interview brings you conversations with people shaping our world, from all over the world. The best interviews from the BBC, including episodes with Sundar Pichai and Julia Gillard.

You can listen on the BBC World Service on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 0800 GMT. Or you can listen to The Interview as a podcast, out three times a week on BBC Sounds or wherever you get your podcasts.

Presenter: Ione Wells

Producer: Osman Iqbal

Editor: Damon Rose

(Image: Roelf Meyer. Credit: Getty)

See more episodes > Programme website >

BBC

Home News Sport Business Technology Health Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio

Video Live Weather BBC Shop BritBox

BBC in other languages

Follow BBC on:

Terms of Use About the BBC Privacy Policy Cookies Do not share or sell my info Accessibility Help

Contact the BBC Advertise with us BBC.com Help & FAQs Content Index Set Preferred Source

Copyright 2026 BBC. All rights reserved. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**